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is not always bound by constitutional limitations. A certain lawyer in presenting a case to that august body was discussing the humanitarian doctrine to which he invariably referred as the "humanitarian" doctrine. This offended the good taste of one of the members of the court, who characterized it as a crime—"the murder of the King's English." Thereupon Judge J. M. Johnson, another member of this tribunal, notwithstanding his Scotch descent, immediately retorted: "No, judge, you mistake his crime; he is not guilty of murder, but mayhem, since he only knocked out an 'i.'"

The authority of this story is not assailable, for Judge Johnson tells it himself.—Central Law Journal.

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**Throwing at Dog as Ground for Divorce.**—"I want a divorce," said the haggard-looking man to the lawyer.

"What are the grounds?" asked the lawyer.

"My wife throws bricks at the dog."

"I'm afraid you haven't much chance of success on those grounds," said the lawyer sadly, as he thought of the fee that was vanishing into the distance.

"But," went on the wild-looking man, "every time she throws at the dog she hits me."—Ex.

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## BOOK REVIEWS.

All book reviews are by the Editor-in-Chief unless otherwise expressly stated.

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**Spirit of the Courts**—By Thomas W. Shelton, Chairman Committee on Uniform Judicial Procedure, American Bar Association. John Murphy Company, Publishers—Baltimore, Maryland. 1918. Price \$1.50.

"Justice is the greatest interest of man on earth. It is the ligature which holds civilized beings and civilized nations together."—*Daniel Webster*.

In season and out of season the talented author of this book has devoted himself to the reform of legal procedure. In this volume he has made a most valuable contribution not only to this subject, but to the far-reaching one of reform in the whole conduct of cases in the courts. He very modestly claims that the book is merely the collection of the various addresses he has made at different times on these subjects. Whilst this is in part true, an examination of the volume shows that these addresses have been added to and so connected as to make one harmonious whole. It is written in a clear, simple style, which offers pleasure along with profit in its perusal. He has eschewed technical language and the layman can read and understand as easily as the lawyer. And this is one of the useful features of the book. Lawyers seem loath to change our methods, although they understand and often deplore their antiquity and fail-

ure to render justice. It is to the thinkers out of the profession—to the legislator who is not a lawyer—that this work appeals, as well as to all lawyers.

There are many novel and interesting questions discussed which at first glance seem almost radical. But a careful perusal shows much wisdom in the suggestions the author makes. One is that when the states adopt uniform laws on any subject the courts should try to maintain their uniformity; and in order to do this our author suggests that the presiding judges of the different appellate courts should exchange views when a new uniform statute is enacted and if they fail to agree on its meaning the majority shall rule. It is to be regretted that something of this sort could not have been done with the Uniform Negotiable Instruments Law. The chapter on the question, "Is the Common Law Relation of Judge and Jury Subject to Legislative Change?" is valuable not only from the historical standpoint and the collection of authorities, but for the suggestion Mr. Shelton makes as to the wisdom of a radical change in our present relations between judge and jury.

This chapter and the one which follows on "An Efficient Judicial System" should be read and re-read by every lawyer and judge in this country. Mr. Shelton's comment on the opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States in *U. S. Use of Alex' Bryant Co. v. N. Y. Steam Fitting Co.*, 235 U. S. 327, calls attention to the careless method in which laws are framed and the absolute necessity imposed upon the courts to really amend statutes or clear up their ambiguities by decision. He, we are glad to say, takes the view that the REGISTER has for many years entertained and expressed, that there should be a Congressional and Legislative Reference Bureau presided over—as in the English Parliament—by some capable, deliberate and profoundly educated thinker.

Space forbids us to comment at further length upon this most admirable work. We commend it not only as useful but, as entertaining and worthy to take its place—as it undoubtedly will—as one of the most valuable contributions to the literature alike of the subject treated and of the law.

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**The Lawyers' Reports Annotated. 1918C.** Burdett A. Rich, Henry P. Farnham, and George H. Parmelee, Editors, Assisted by the Publishers' Editorial Staff. The Lawyers Co-Operative Publishing Company, Rochester, New York. 1918. Price \$5.00.

We find this volume unusually valuable in the timely cases and subjects selected for annotation. On page 361 a case on the Selective Draft Act is reported, with such annotations as were possible on so recent a subject. On page 127 is a case upon War Casualties as within Accident Insurance. In the view of the dearth of authority upon this subject this case will be exceedingly valuable in future litigation, which may be expected. On page 79 there is a valuable annotation to a case regarding the Exclusion of Seditious Matter from the Mails under the Espionage Act; and on page 497 there is a timely though brief annotation as to the Labor Unions and the Justification of the Interference with the Relation between Master and Servant.

These of course are but a very few of the most important cases in this new and interesting volume.